



PATENT
Attorney Docket No.: 019502.0007US1

IN THE UNITED STATE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

In re application of: **Earl Votolato**

Serial No: **10/010158**

Filed: **November 13, 2001**

For: **Bag Slitting Apparatus**

Group: **3724**

Examiner: **T. Druan**

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure imposed by 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 to inform the United States Patent and Trademark Office of all references coming to the attention of the Applicant(s) or attorneys or agents for Applicant(s) which are or may be material to the examination of the subject application, attorneys for the Applicant(s) hereby invite the Examiner's attention to the references listed in the accompanying PTO Form 1449 entitled "List of References Cited".

This submission is understood to complement the results of the Examiner's own independent search. The submission of this Disclosure Statement should not be construed as a representation that a search was made, or that the cited items are inclusive of all relevant and material citations that may be available publicly.

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The citation of any item is not an admission that the item is "prior art" against the subject application. The right is reserved to antedate any item according to standard procedures.

Respectfully submitted,
Rutan & Tucker, LLP

Dated: 1/30/2003

By: Sandra P. Thompson

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TRANSMITTAL OF INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

TIME OF TRANSMITTAL OF ACCOMPANYING
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

1. The information disclosure statement ("IDS") transmitted herewith is being filed:

— 1.97(b) - **within** three months of the filing date of the application or date of entry into the national stage of an international application, or before the mailing date of a first Office action on the merits, or before the mailing of a first Office action after the filing of a request for continued examination under § 1.114, whichever event occurs last.

— 1.97(c) - **after** the period set forth in 37 C.F.R. 1.97(b), but **before** the mailing date of either a final action under section 1.113 or a notice of allowance under section 1.311, whichever occurs first.

X 1.97(d) - **after** the periods set forth in 37 C.F.R. 197(b) and (c), but before the **before** payment of the issue fee.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING/TRANSMISSION (37 C.F.R. section 1.8(a))

I hereby certify that, on the date shown below, this correspondence is being:

☒ MAILING
deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231. Date: July 12, 2001

☐ FACSIMILE
transmitted by facsimile to the Patent and Trademark Office

Date: **1/30/03**

Erika Simpson

FEE

2. Accompanying this transmittal is:

☐ no fee as the accompanying IDS is being submitted within the time period specified in 1.97(b).

☐ no fee as the accompanying IDS is being submitted under section 1.97(c), and has chosen the option of including the statement of 1.97(e)

☒ with the fee for submission of an IDS under section 1.97(c) that does not include the statement of 1.97(e), or for submission of an IDS under section 1.97(d). (\$180.00)

☒ Attached is a check in the amount of \$ 180.00. If any additional fees are due, please charge Account 500341.

STATEMENT UNDER 1.97(e)

3. Accompanying this transmittal is:

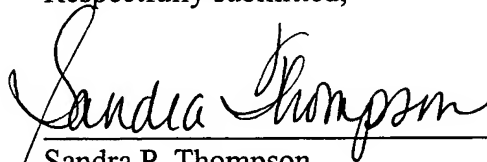
☐ no statement under 1.97(e) as the accompanying IDS is being submitted under 1.97(b), or under 1.97(c) along with the required fee.

☐ a statement in accordance with 1.97(e) as the IDS is either being submitted under section 1.97(c) without a fee, or under 1.97(d).

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 1/30/2003

By:



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